

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were pending and rejected in the above-identified patent application. Claims 22-26 were subject to a restriction requirement and deemed directed to a non-elected claim set. Claims 1, 6, 10 and 19 are being amended. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

In paragraph 2, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, dividing the claims into a first group consisting of claims 1-21 and a second group consisting of claims 22-26. Since an action on the merits had been previously issued, the Examiner automatically elected claims 1-21.

In paragraphs 3-7, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as anticipated by Shank. Shank discloses a system for hardware independent system level control of storage units in an array. In Figure 1 and col. 3 of Shank, the system 100 is shown and described as including a host computer/server 102 and a disk array 104. However, Shank does not disclose the SoD center system as originally recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Further, Shank does not disclose an SoD center system which “is remote from the host computer and the storage subsystem” as recited in claim 1 as amended. Even further, Shank does not disclose an SoD center system which “manage[s] usability of the storage resource, and is capable of managing accessibility of the storage resource by the host computer” as recited in claim 1 as amended. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended and claims 3 and 21 dependent therefrom are patentable over Shank and therefore requests the rejections of claims 1, 3 and 21 be withdrawn.

In paragraphs 8-20, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4-20 as being unpatentable over Shank in view of McKean. McKean discloses a system that manages computer access to a number of storage volumes in a storage peripheral using port IDs. Like Shank, McKean does not disclose the center system as originally recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 19 of the present invention or the storage resource management processor as recited in independent claim 6 of the present invention. Further, neither Shank nor McKean discloses an SoD center system which “is

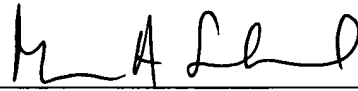
remote from the host computer and the storage subsystem” as recited in claim 1 as amended, a storage resource management processor which “is remote from said plurality of storage devices and from said user machine” as recited in claim 6 as amended, the limitation that said host, said storage subsystem, and a center system are “remote from each other” as recited in claim 10 as amended, or the limitation that said host, said storage subsystem, and a center system are “remote from each other” as recited in claim 19 as amended. Still further, neither Shank nor McKean discloses an SoD center system which “manage[s] usability of the storage resource, and is capable of managing accessibility of the storage resource by the host computer” as recited in claim 1 as amended, a storage management processor that... updates said device management store to manage usability of one of the storage devices and said I/O port management store to manage accessibility of the one storage device by a user machine” as recited in claim 6 as amended, a center system enabled “to manage accessibility of the resource by the host” as recited in claim 10 as amended, or codes “enabling the center system to manage accessibility of the resource by the host” as recited in claim 19 as amended. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, 10 and 19 as amended and claims 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-18 and 20 dependent therefrom are patentable and nonobvious over Shank in view of McKean, and therefore requests the rejections of claims 2 and 4-20 be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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